

DA Subpenas

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—States-Item Photo.
KERRY THORNLEY
Called in probe.

Oswald Pal

A Marine Corps associate of Lee Harvey Oswald was subpoenaed today by District Attorney Jim Garrison in his probe of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Criminal District Judge Matthew S. Braniff issued the subpoena for Kerry Wendell Thornley, formerly of New Orleans and now of Tampa, Fla.

THORNLEY WAS questioned extensively by the Warren Commission in its investigation of the assassination. The commission described him as the closest Marine Corps friend of the accused assassin.

Thornley lived here in 1963 at 1824 Dauphine. The DA's office said it wanted to question him about what it called contacts with Oswald during this period.

The subpoena is for an appearance before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury Feb. 8 and 9.

THE REQUEST for the subpoena says the Warren Commission questioned Thornley "for 33 pages" concerning his Marine Corps life with Oswald, but did not ques-

tion him about knowing Oswald in New Orleans in 1963.

The DA's office claims to have established that Thornley was seen in Oswald's company in the French Quarter and elsewhere before Oswald's final departure from the city in September, 1963.

The office said the "frequency" of Oswald's contacts with Thornley here indicate the latter might be in possession of specific information about other associations Oswald had in this period.

THE SUBPENA grants Thornley immunity from arrest for any past offenses during his stay to answer it.

A request that the subpoena be served will be presented to a judge in Hillsboro County, Fla. (Tampa).

A check for \$148 was ordered drawn from the fines and fees fund by Judge Braniff to pay for Thornley's trip.

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Friend of Oswald Subpenaed by DA

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AT THE TIME of the assassination, Thornley was working as a waiter in New Orleans. Interviewed by the States-Item on Nov. 27, 1963, he described Oswald as "sort of a poor soul."

Thornley said he served with Oswald in Marine Air Control Squadron No. 9 at El Toro Marine Air Base, Santa Ana, Calif., in the early months of 1959.

He was so impressed with Oswald he wrote a book based on his life called "The Idle Warriors." The book apparently was never published.

THORNLEY DESCRIBED the Marine Oswald as "kind of the outfit janitor, because he had lost his security clearance for being in the brig. He had a reputation in the outfit of being a real loser."

He supported the Warren Commission's thesis, disputed by Garrison, that Oswald was a Communist. He said, "I think Oswald became a Communist before he became a Marine."

Thornley said a mutual interest in books and "bull sessions" drew him to Oswald.

"HE WAS VERY well read and I read a lot. We'd get together in the afternoon, he and I and six or seven others. We discussed politics and religion and such.

"He said he thought communism was the best religion.

"But there wa salways this satirical, half-mocking attitude he took. You couldn't tell whether he was really serious or not."

ASKED IF HE thought Os-

wald the assassin type, Thornley said:

"Well, he was very resentful of the military; he was very much the man who would 'play' the part of the assassin.

"But, I'm still not sure he committed the assassination. He never showed any tendency toward violence. He was more of a talker than anything else."